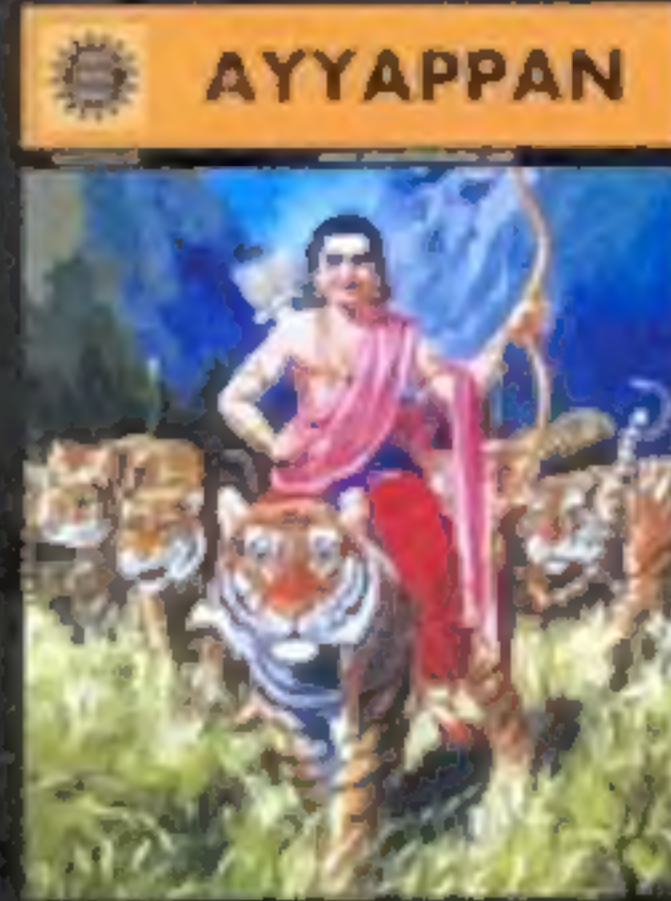


## CHANDRAHASA

Chandrasahsa was born a prince but fate had decreed that he become an orphan and live on the streets. However, he had one great strength, his faith in Vishnu. Repeated attempts on his life by the wicked Dushtabuddhi failed and eventually the young prince got what was his right. The story of Chandrasahsa has been taken from the Jaimini Bharata which is said to have been written by a disciple of Vyasa called Jaimini.

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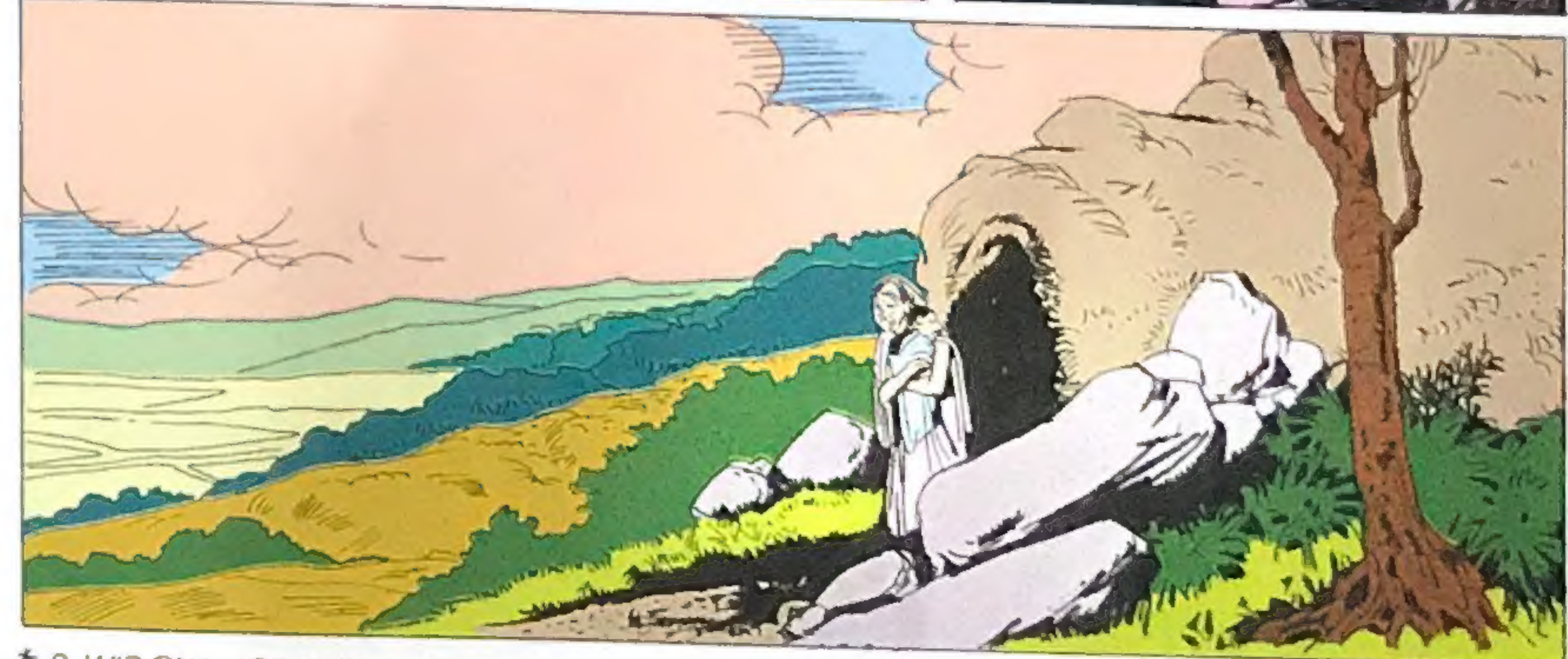
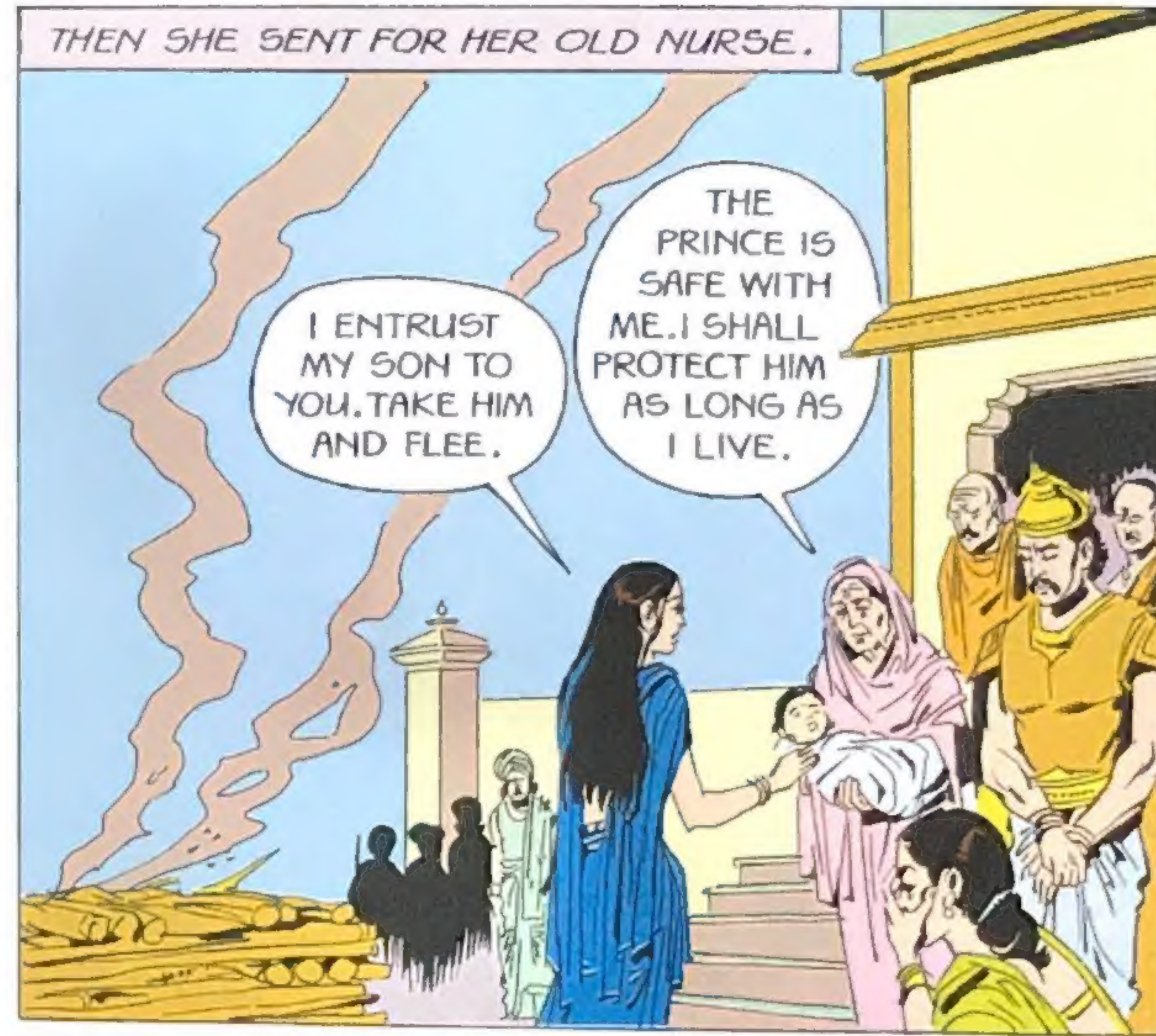
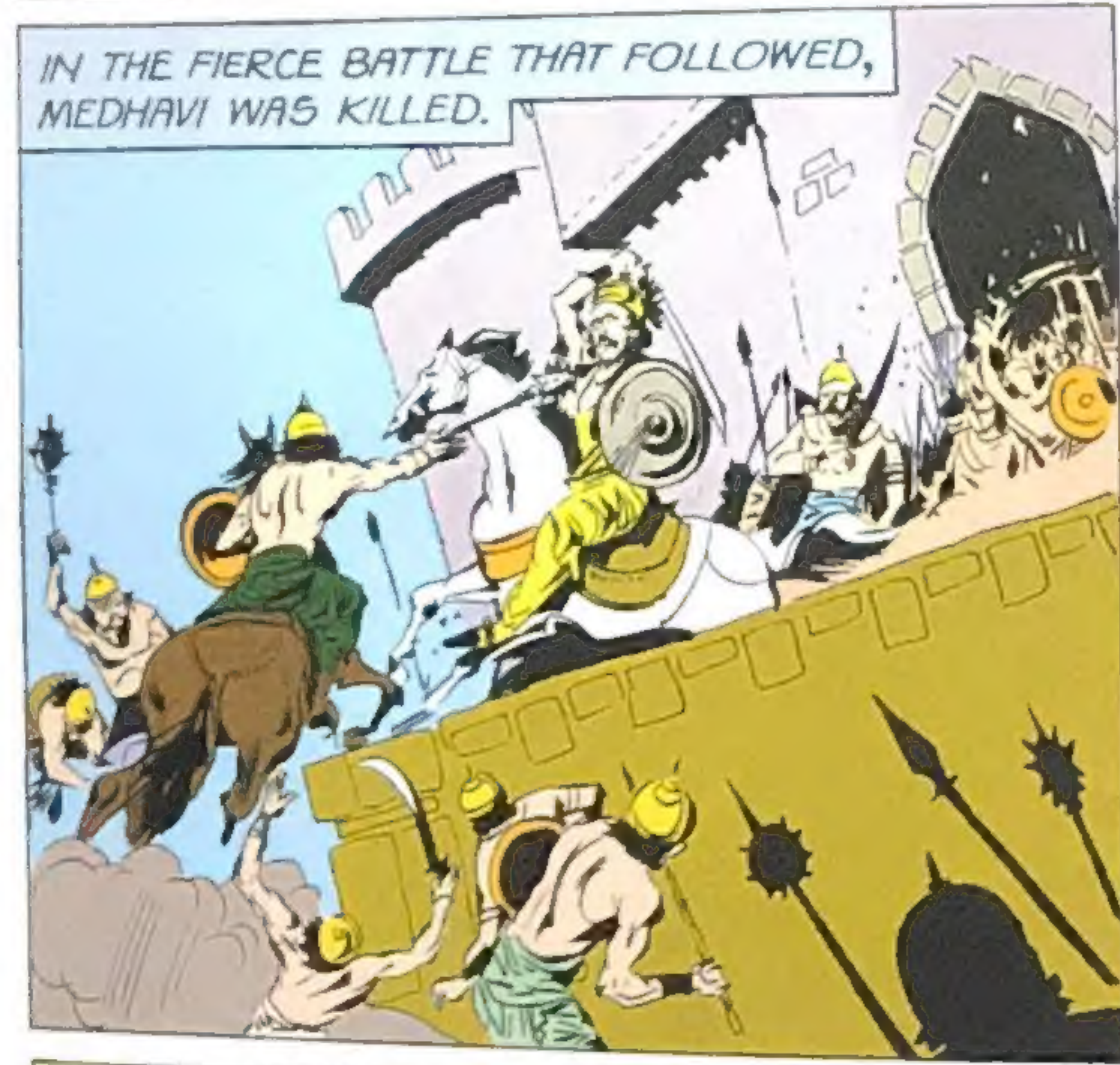


# CHANDRAHASA



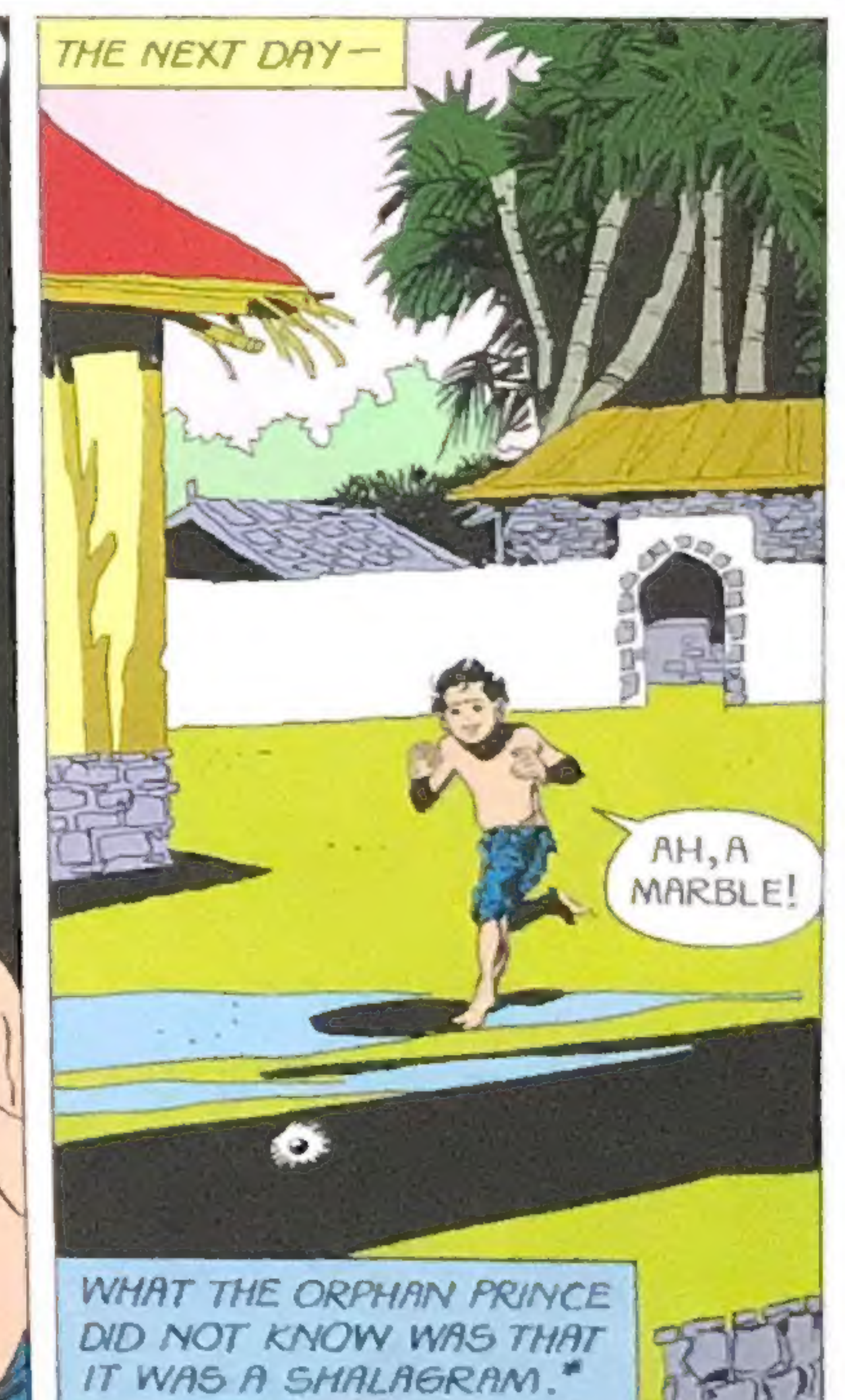
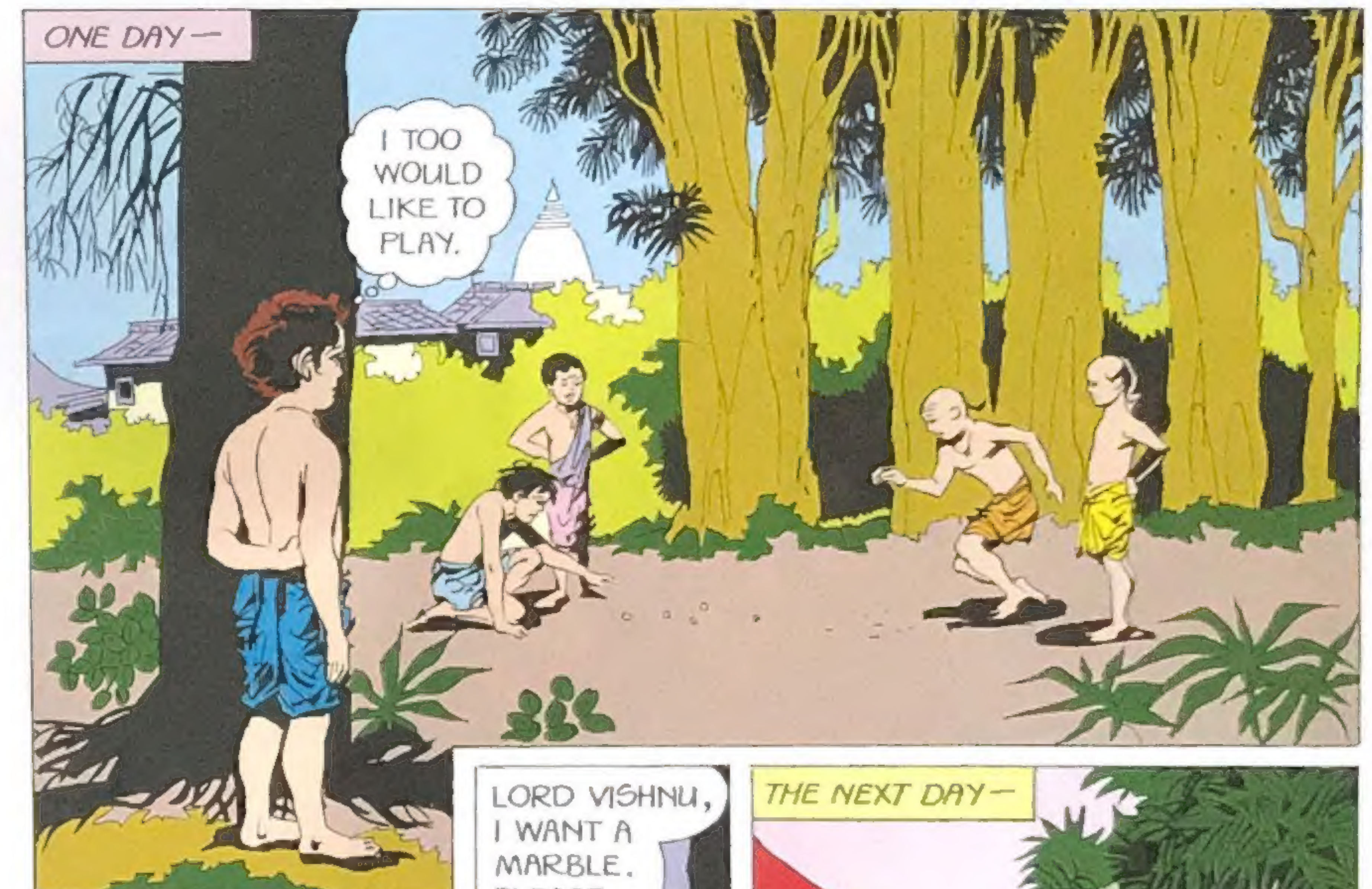
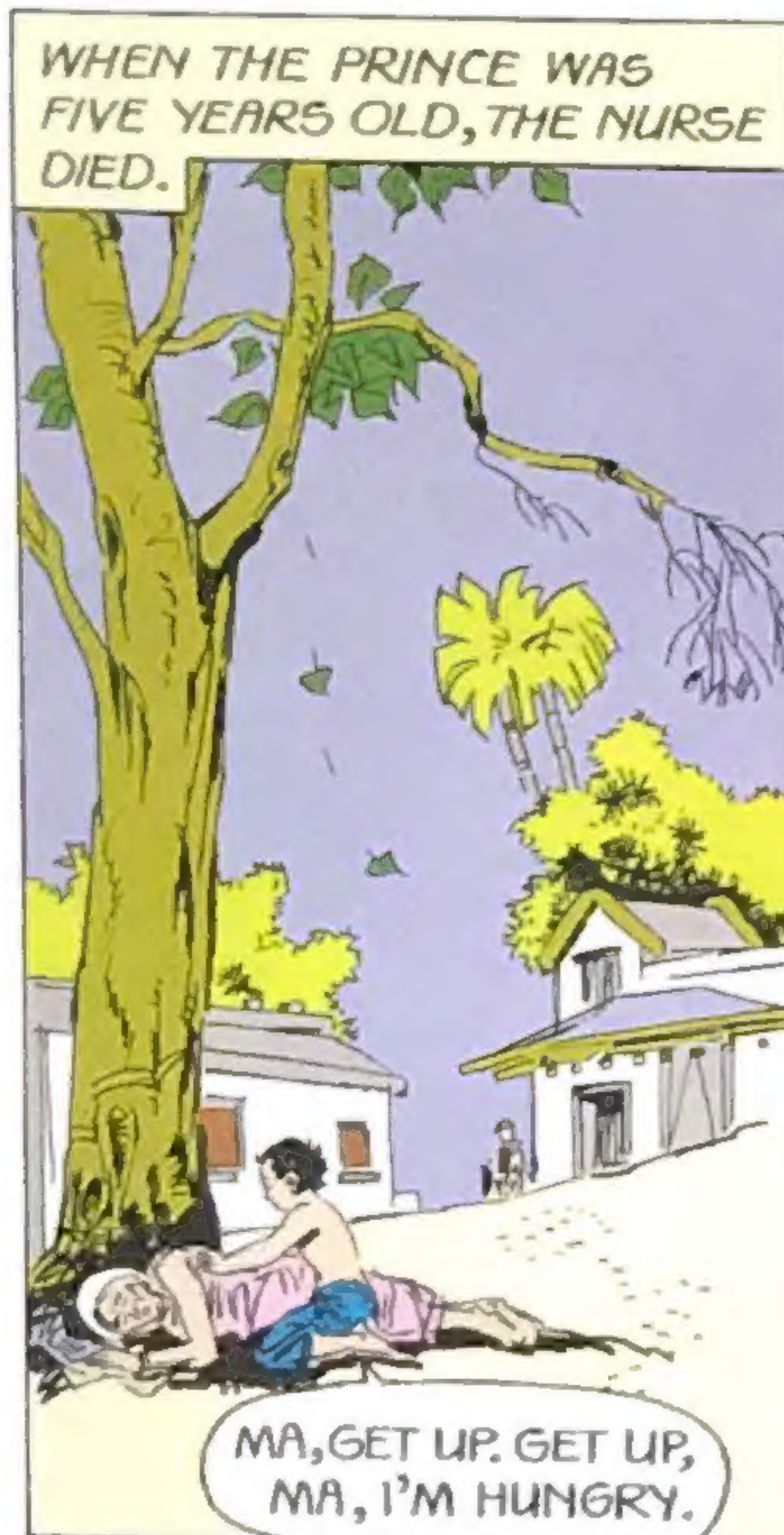
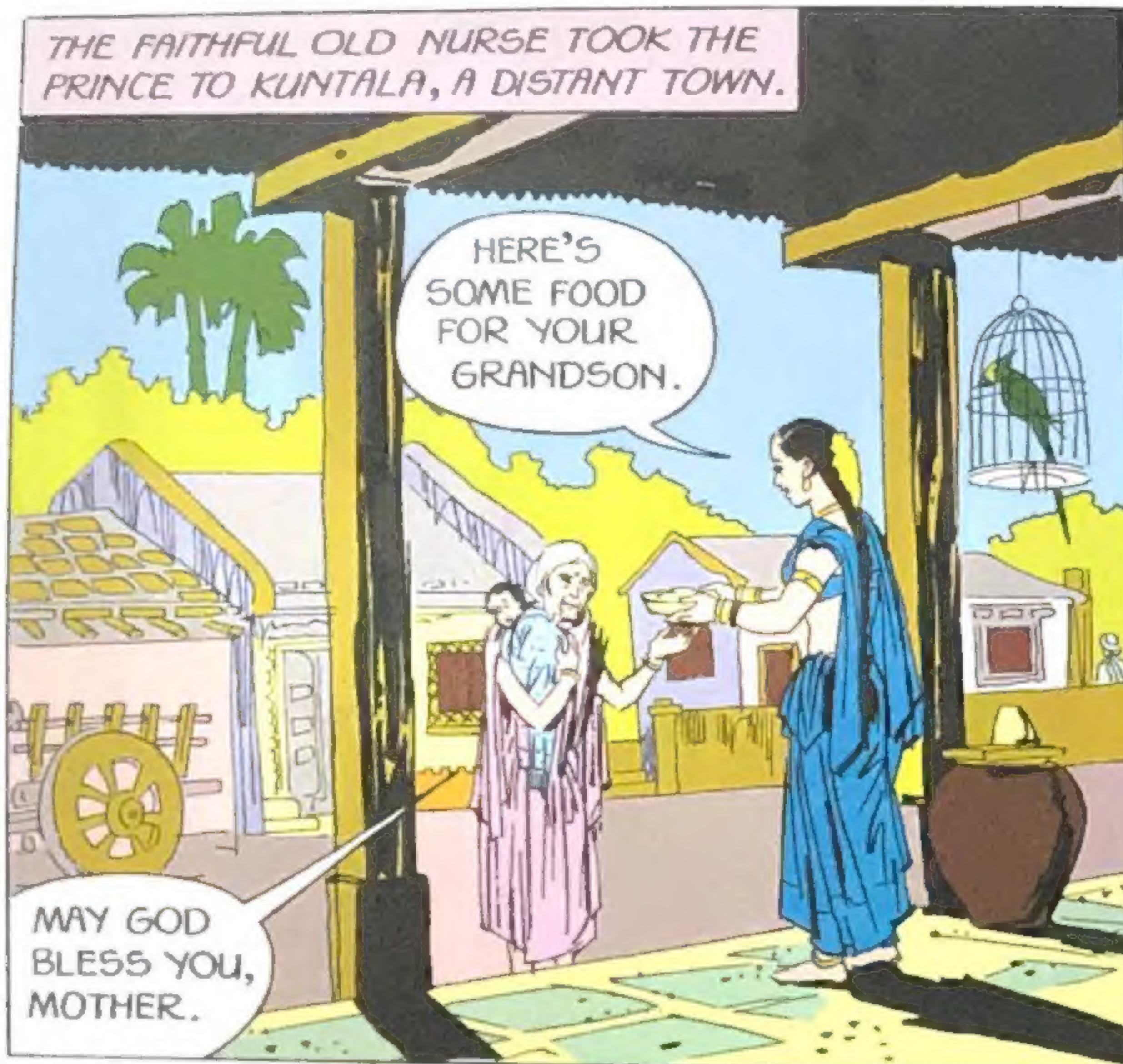
KING MEDHAVI HAD NO CHILDREN. HE PRAYED TO LORD VISHNU TO GRANT HIM A SON. HIS PRAYER WAS HEARD AND THE QUEEN GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY.





\* A WIDOW JOINING HER HUSBAND ON THE FUNERAL PYRE.

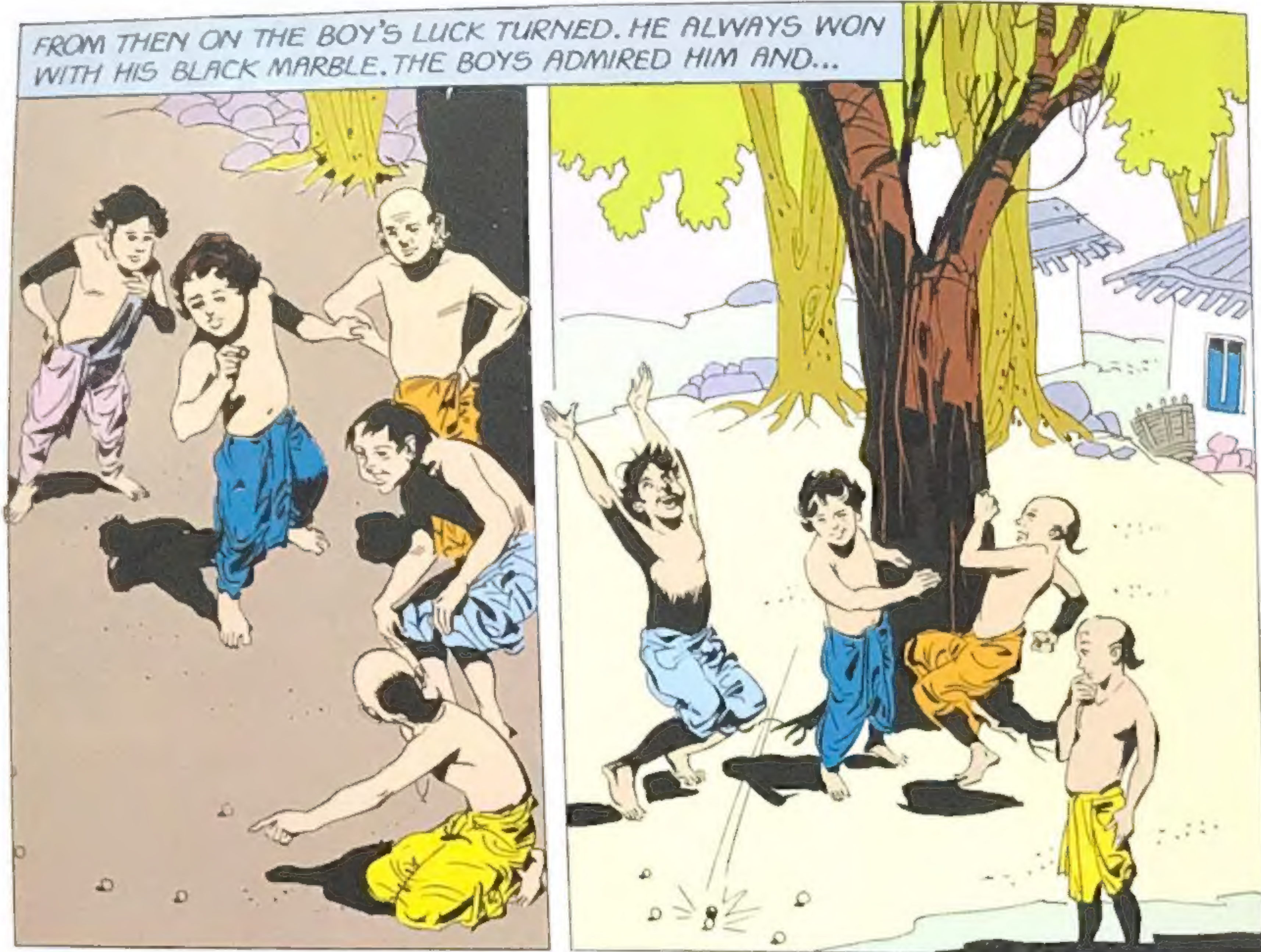




\* A BLACK STONE, USUALLY ROUND IN SHAPE, CONSIDERED TO BE A REPRESENTATION OF VISHNU.



FROM THEN ON THE BOY'S LUCK TURNED. HE ALWAYS WON WITH HIS BLACK MARBLE. THE BOYS ADMIRED HIM AND...



...VERY SOON HE BECAME THEIR LEADER.



THOUGH THE ORPHAN PRINCE HAD NEITHER HOME NOR FAMILY HE WAS THE HAPPIEST BOY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.



ONE DAY, THE ORPHAN PRINCE AND HIS GANG WERE PLAYING IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE OF DUSHTABUDDHI, THE CHIEF MINISTER OF KUNTALA, WHO WAS SEEING OFF HIS GUEST, A LEARNED BRAHMAN. WHEN THE BRAHMAN SAW THE PRINCE —

WHO IS THAT BOY, DUSHTABUDDHI?

A STREET URCHIN, I SUPPOSE. WHY DO YOU ASK?



MARK MY WORDS. ONE DAY HE WILL BE THE KING OF KUNTALA. TAKE HIM UNDER YOUR CARE AND GIVE HIM A PROPER EDUCATION.

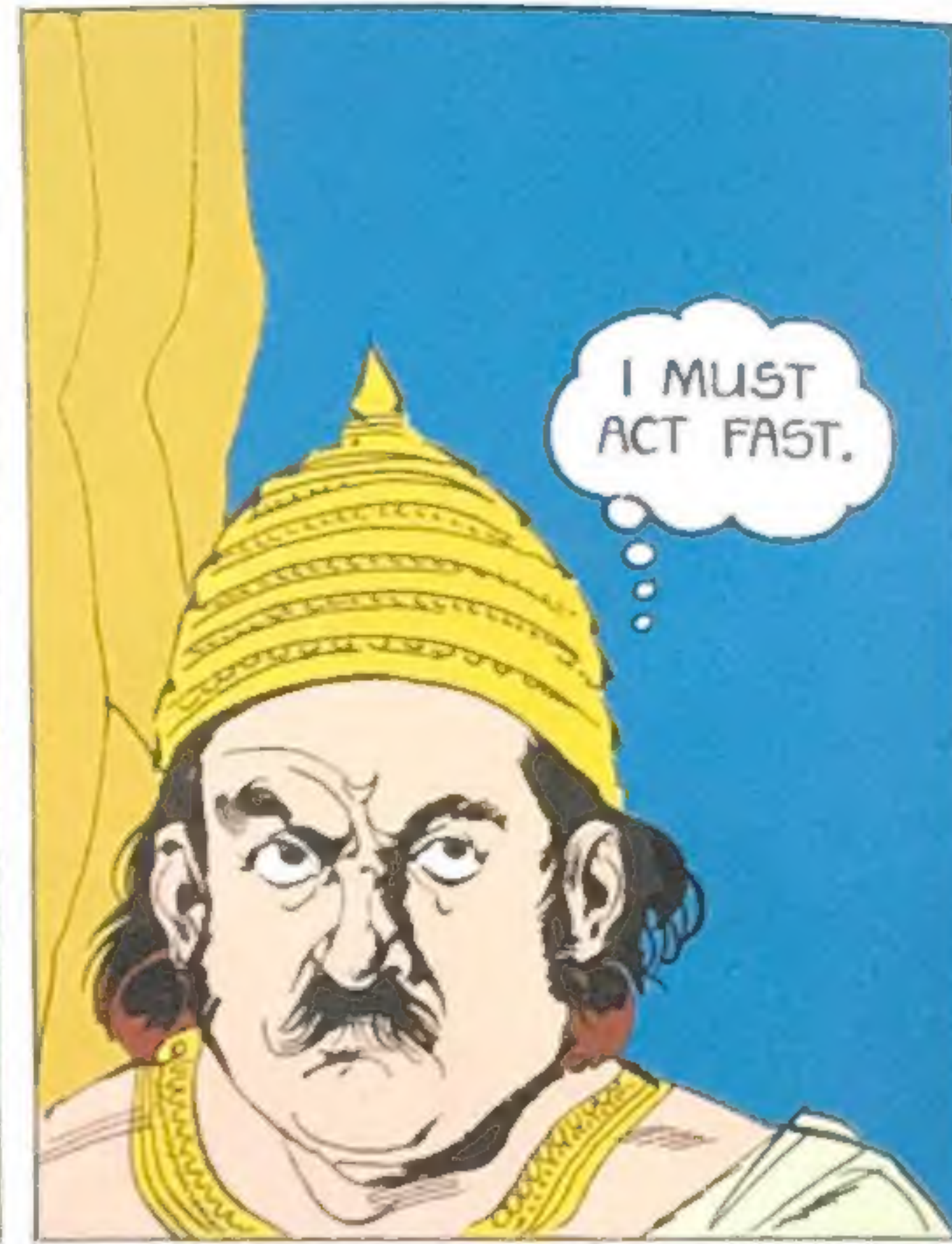
THE KING OF KUNTALA! HM... M..M..M!

MADANA, MY SON — NOT THIS URCHIN — SHALL BE THE KING OF KUNTALA.





DUSHTABUDDHI HAD DESIGNS ON THE THRONE OF KUNTALA FOR THE KING HAD NO SON.



I MUST ACT FAST.

SOON AFTERWARDS —



DO YOU SEE THAT BOY IN THE CENTRE?

YES, I DO.

SO DO I.



TAKE HIM TO THE FOREST AND KILL HIM. YOU WILL BE WELL REWARDED.

LEAVE IT TO US, SIR. WE WILL DO THE JOB.



RUN!

RUN!

THEY MEAN TO KILL US!



YOU ARE THE ONE WE WANT.



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

HA! HA! HA!

TO THE HOUSE OF YAMA.\*

\* GOD OF DEATH



THE KILLERS TOOK THE BOY TO THE FOREST.



\* ANOTHER NAME OF LORD VISHNU







BUT THE PRINCE WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE. HE WAS BEING CARED FOR BY THE ANIMALS OF THE FOREST.



ONE DAY, KALINDAKA OF CHANDANAVATI, A VASSAL OF THE KING OF KUNTALA, CAME TO THAT FOREST TO HUNT.



AND KING KALINDAKA TOOK THE ORPHAN PRINCE TO HIS PALACE.



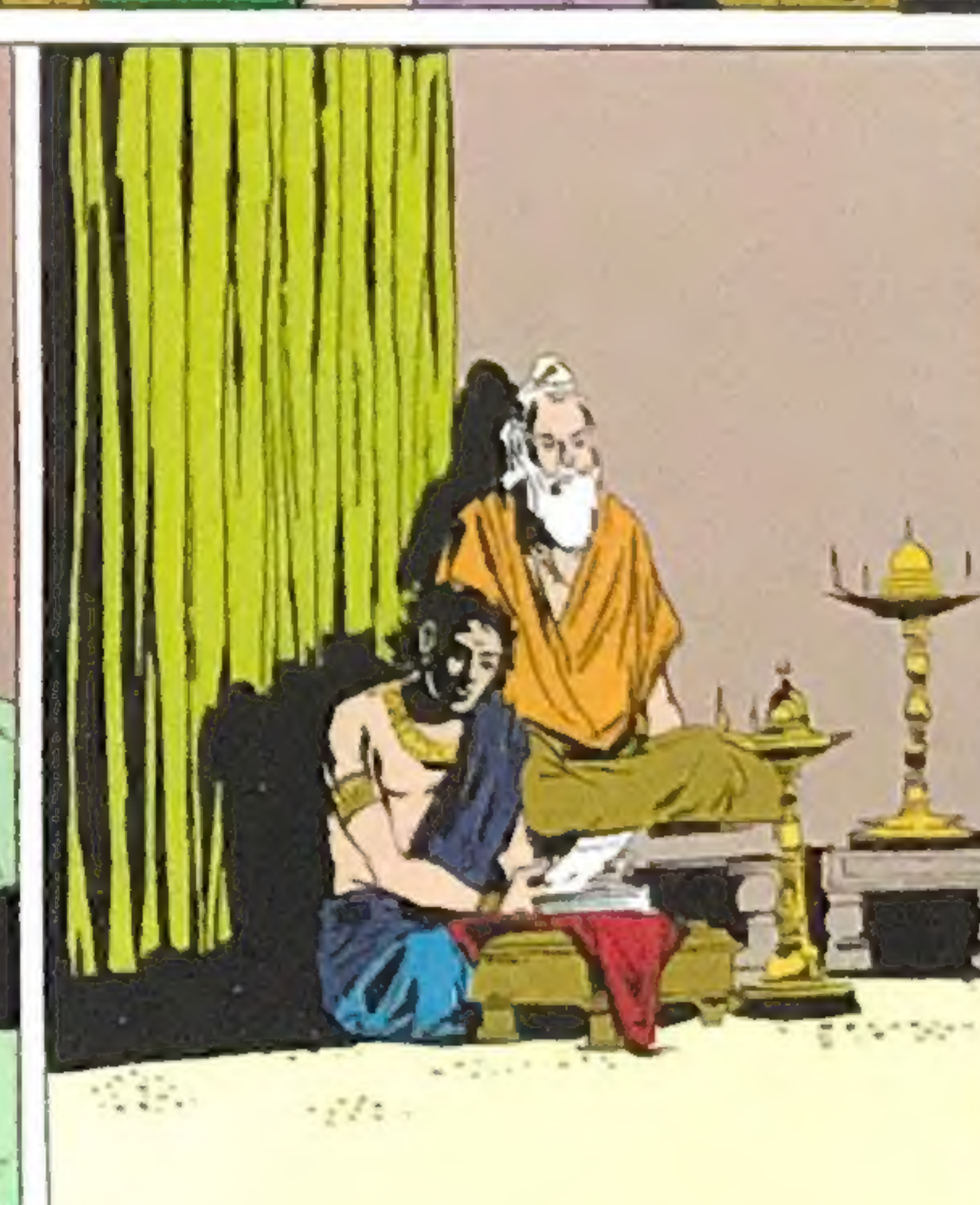




"CHANDRA" MOON  
HASA = SMILE



UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF HIS TEACHER, CHANDRAHASA SOON BECAME AN EXPERT IN THE USE OF WEAPONS...



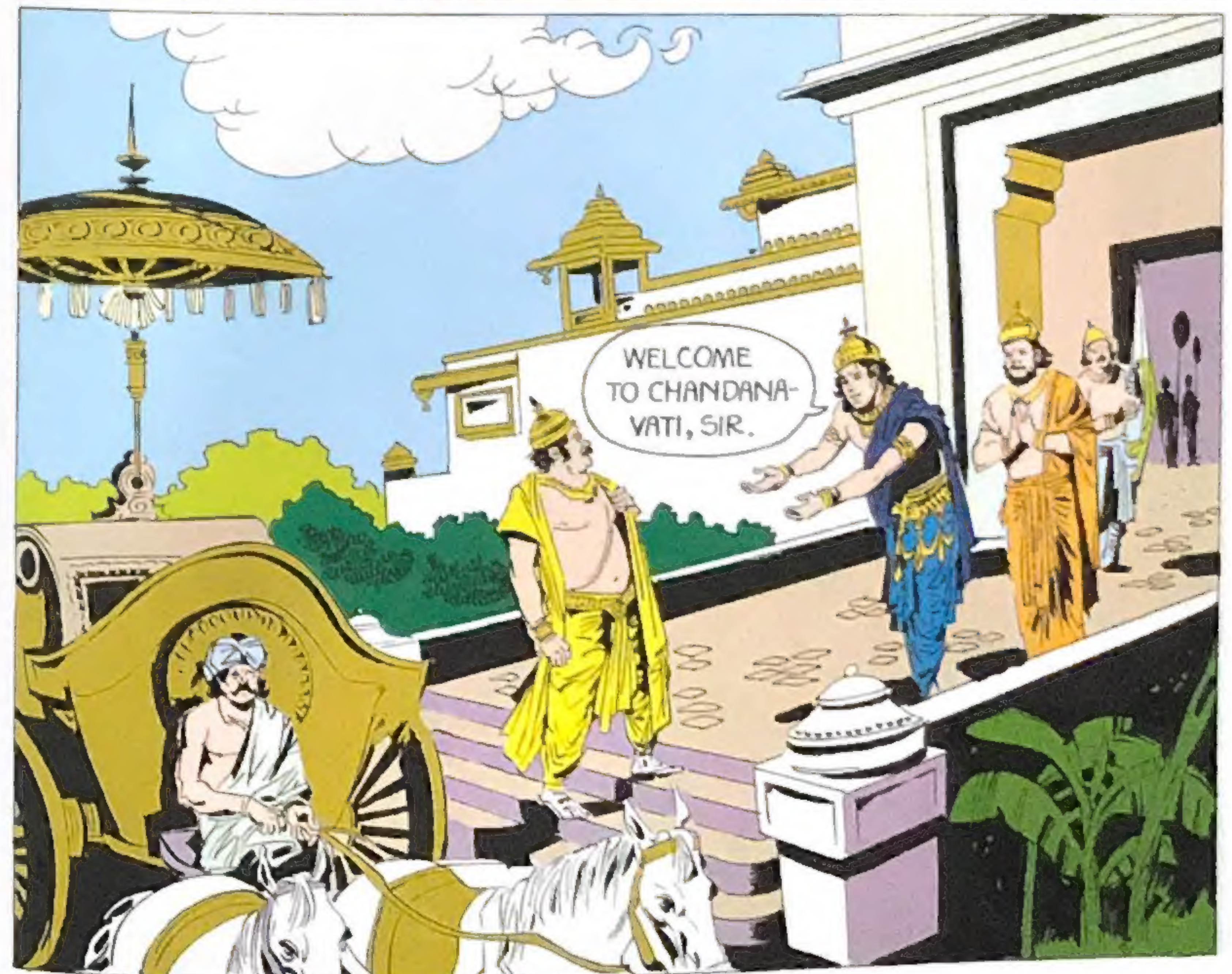
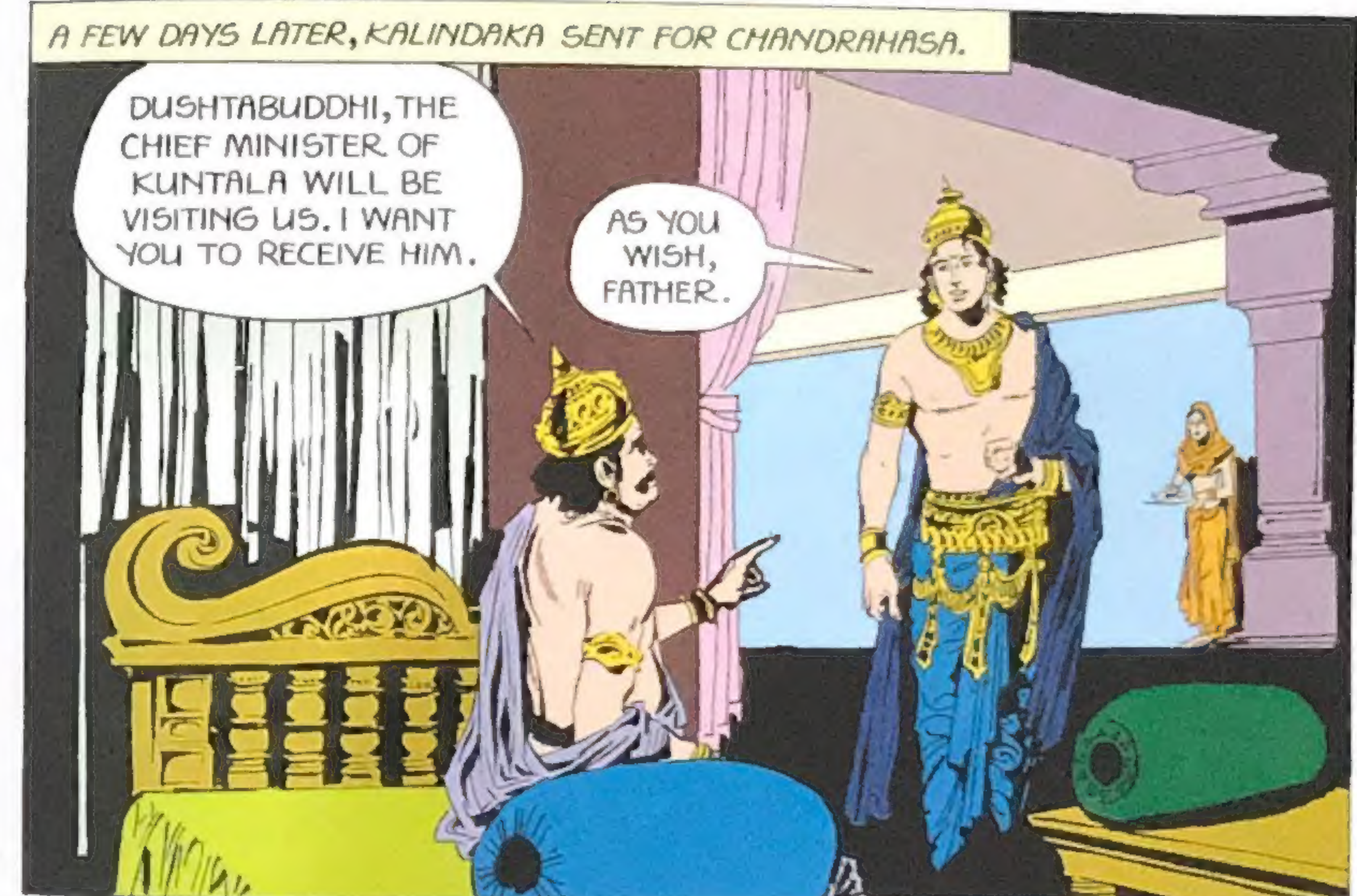
... AND IN STATECRAFT.



WHEN HE WAS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD, KING KALINDAKA FORMALLY INSTALLED CHANDRAHASA AS HIS SUCCESSOR.



A FEW DAYS LATER, KALINDAKA SENT FOR CHANDRAHASA.





LATER--

KALINDAKA, WHO WAS THAT YOUNG OFFICER WHO RECEIVED ME AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE?

IT WAS MY SON, CHANDRAHASA.

YOUR SON? BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A SON. HOW DID YOU COME BY THIS ONE?

SOME THIRTEEN YEARS AGO I FOUND HIM ALONE IN THE FOREST. I ADOPTED HIM.

THIRTEEN YEARS AGO? CHANDRAHASA CAN BE NONE OTHER THAN THAT STREET URCHIN. THE KILLERS MUST HAVE DECEIVED ME. WILL THE PREDICTION COME TRUE? NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

DUSHTABUDDHI IMMEDIATELY HATCHED ANOTHER PLOT TO KILL CHANDRAHASA.

CHANDRAHASA, YOU ARE A DEPENDABLE YOUNG MAN. RIDE TO KUNTALA AND GIVE MY SON, MADANA, THIS LETTER. IT IS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU, SIR.

CHANDRAHASA RODE AS FAST AS HE COULD, TOWARDS KUNTALA.

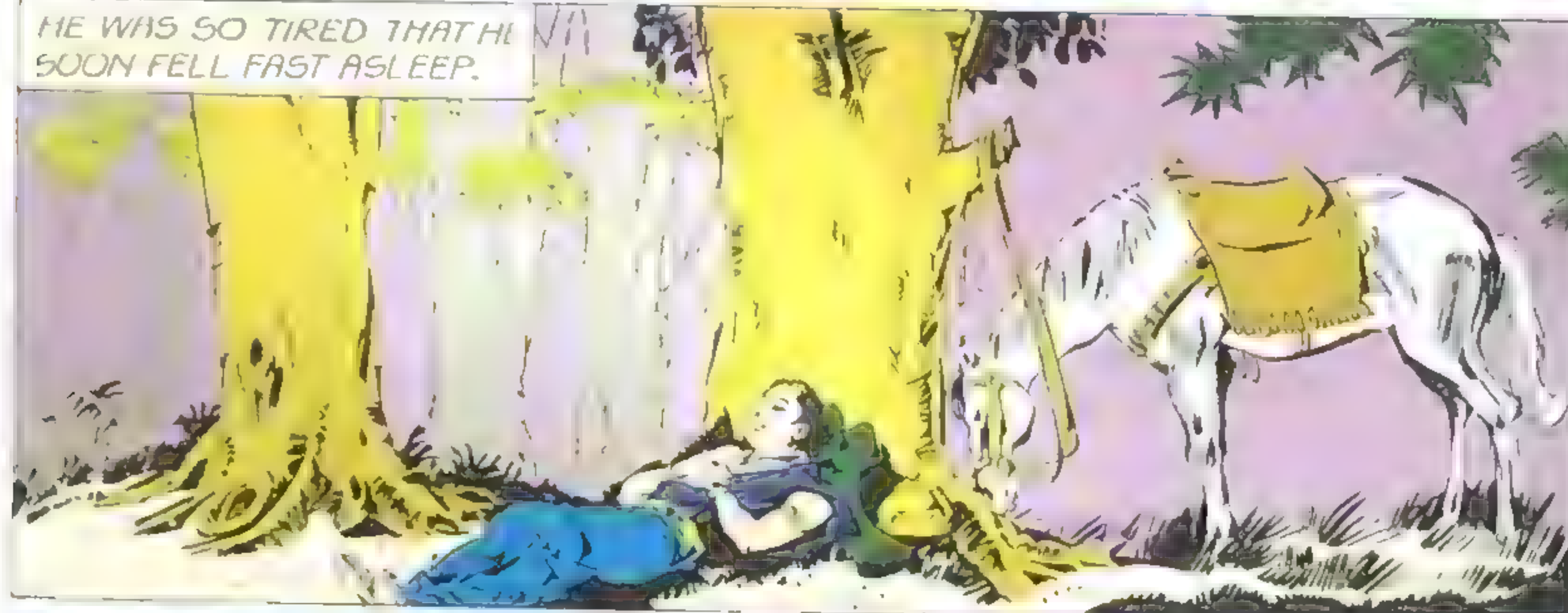
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, HE SAW A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN.



HE SUDDENLY REALISED THAT HE WAS TIRED.



HE WAS SO TIRED THAT HE SOON FELL FAST ASLEEP.



JUST THEN, DUSHTABUDDHI'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, VISHAYA, CAME TO THE GARDEN.



AS THEY WERE GATHERING FLOWERS, SHE STRAYED AWAY FROM HER FRIENDS. SUDDENLY SHE CHANCED TO SEE THE PRINCE.

HOW HANDSOME HE IS! WHO COULD HE BE? HE HAS A LETTER WITH HIM!



THE LETTER! THE LETTER WILL SURELY REVEAL HIS IDENTITY.



OVERCOME BY CURIOSITY SHE TOOK IT...



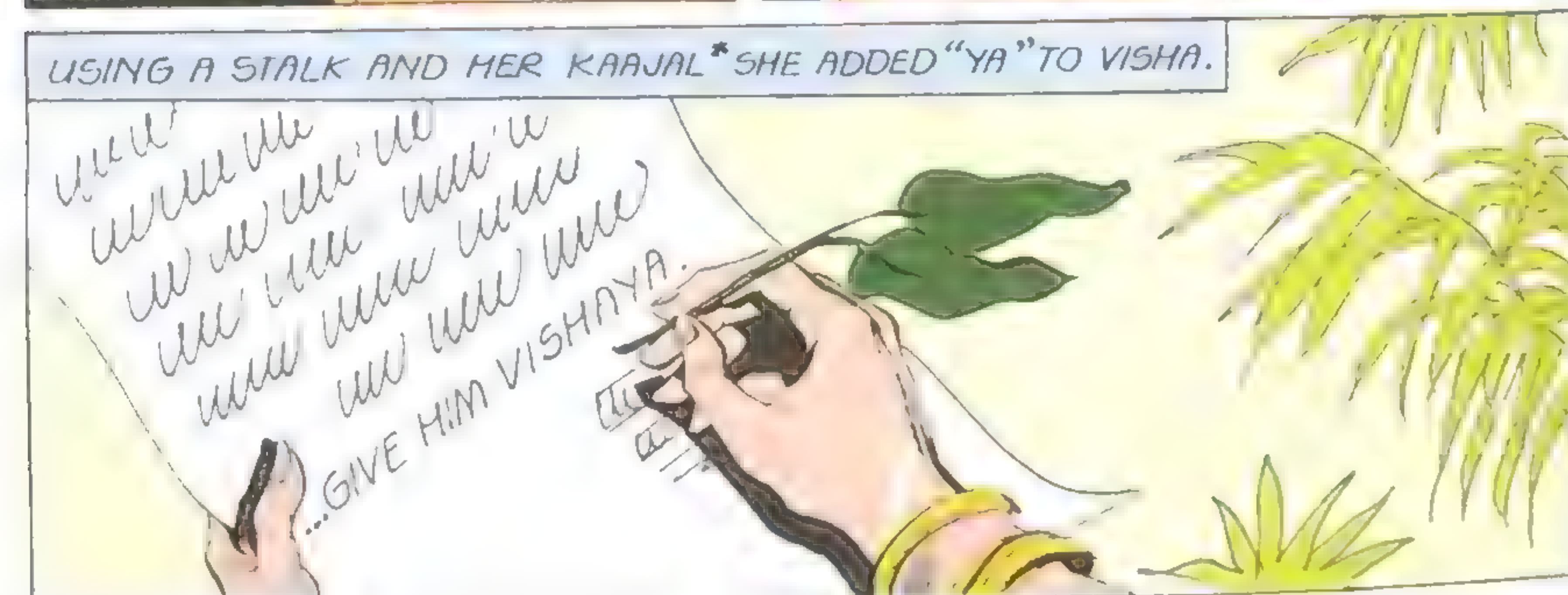
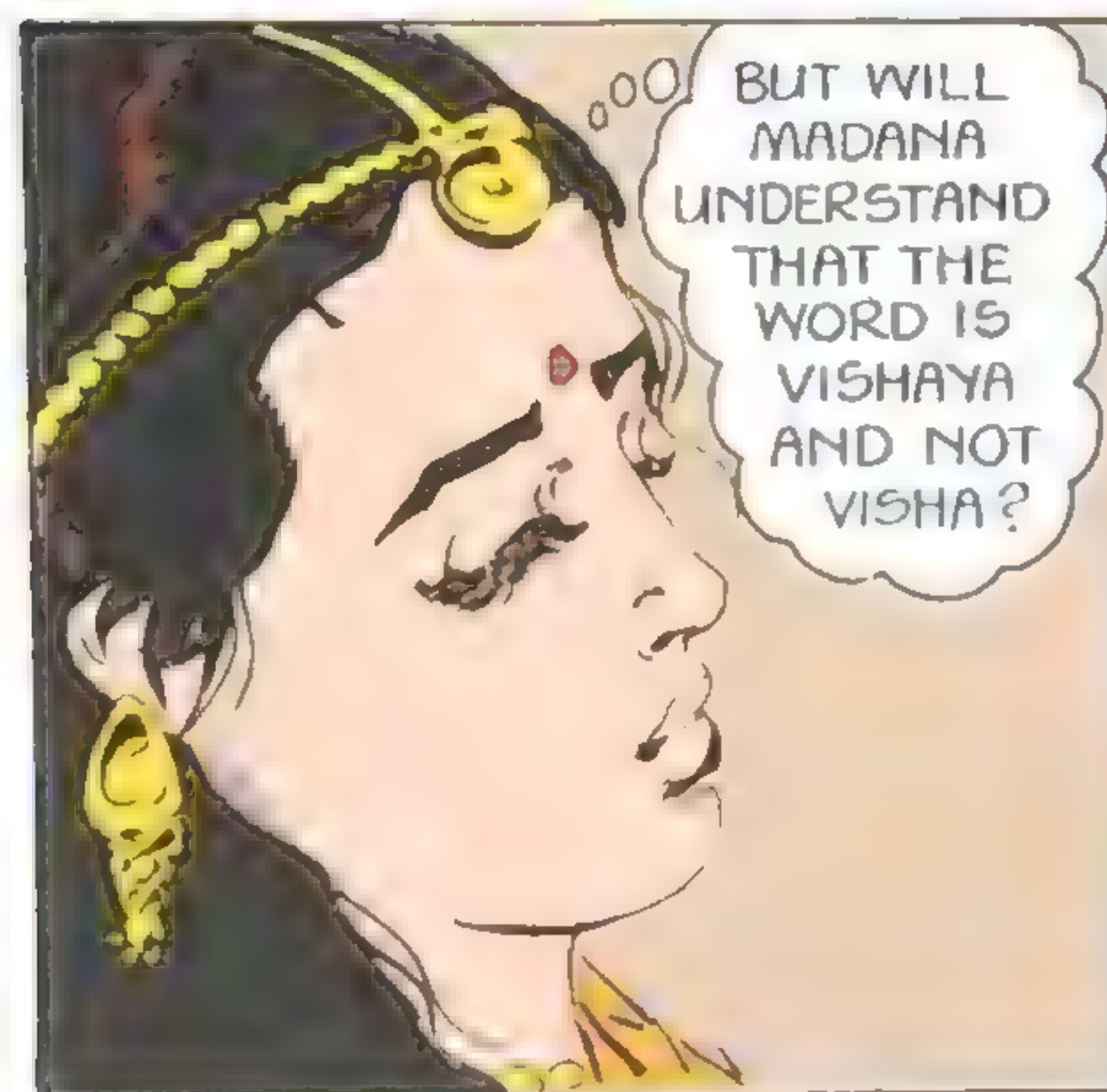
...AND READ IT.

DEAR MADANA, THE BEARER OF THIS LETTER IS DESTINED TO BECOME THE KING OF KUNTALA. THEREFORE, WITHOUT WAITING FOR MY RETURN, GIVE HIM VISHA\*

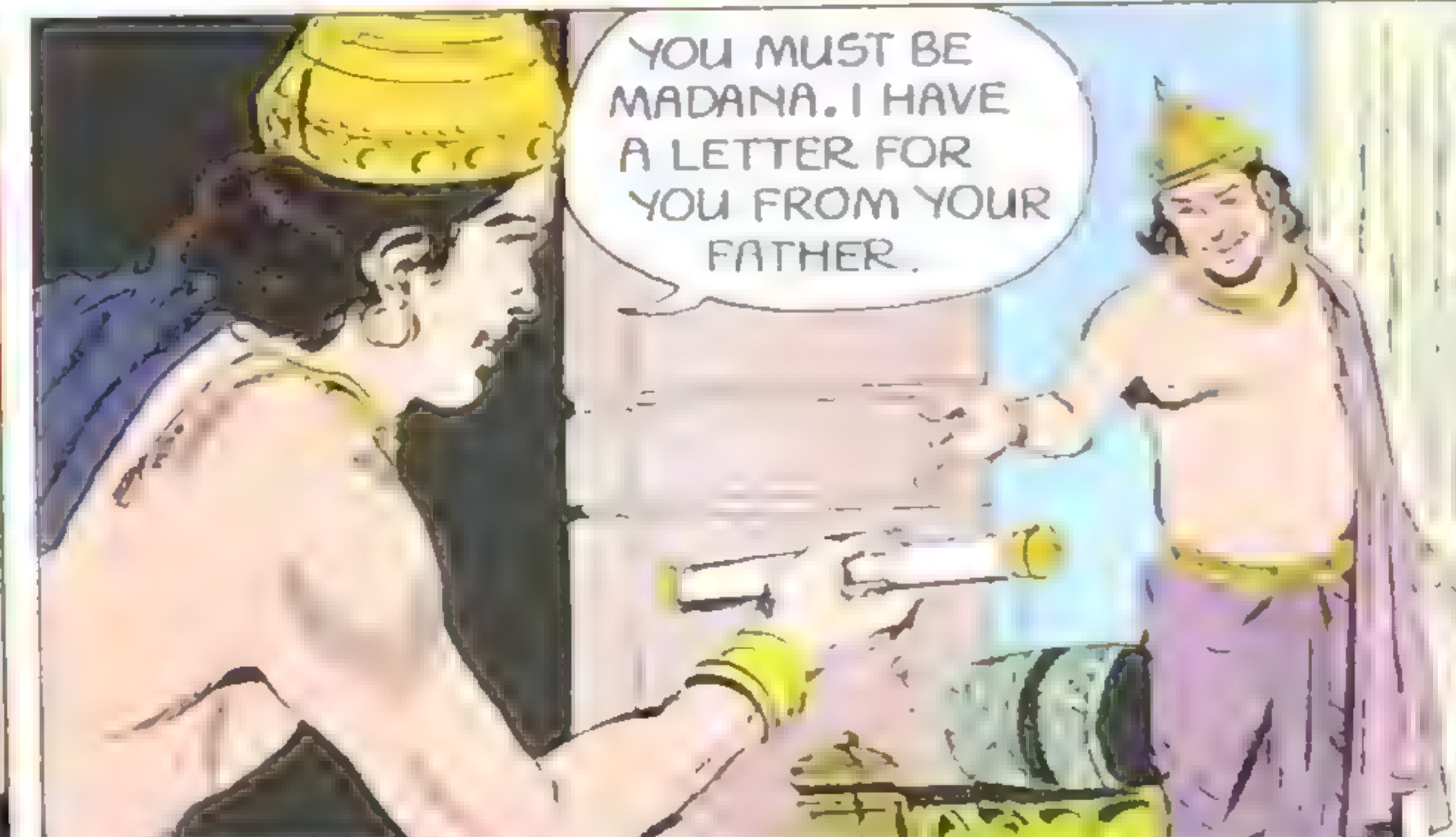
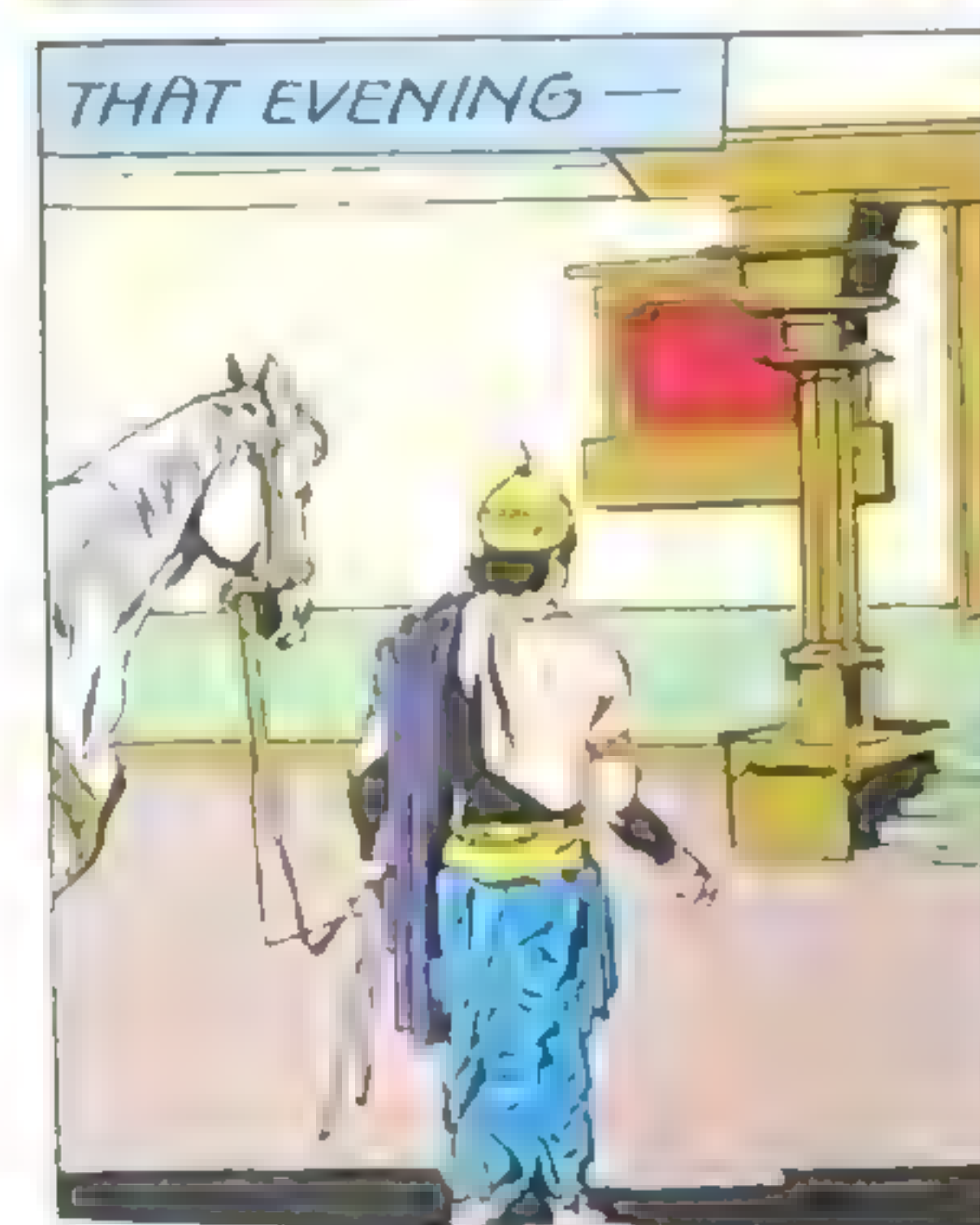
VISHA? THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE. I KNOW... IN HIS HURRY FATHER HAS MIS-SPELT MY NAME.







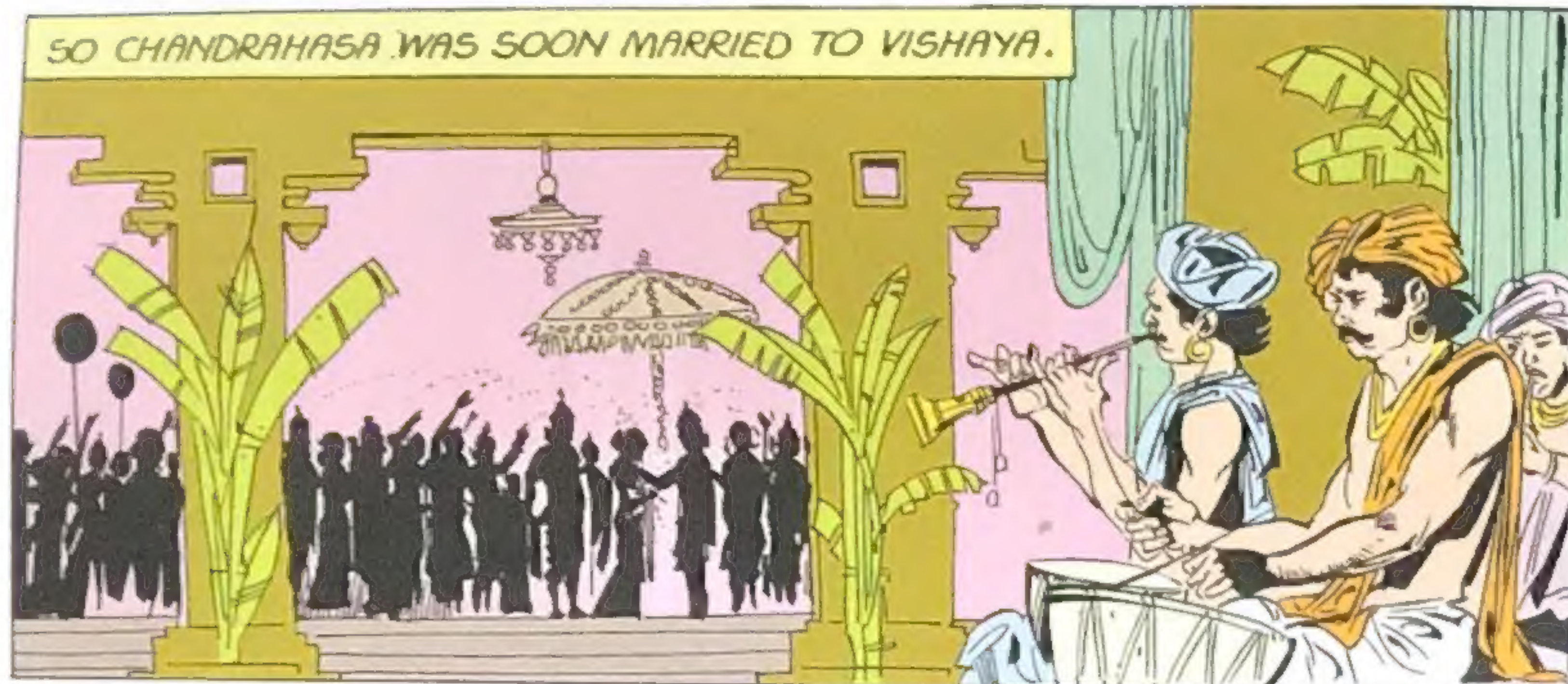
\*A GREASY BLACK EYE COSMETIC.



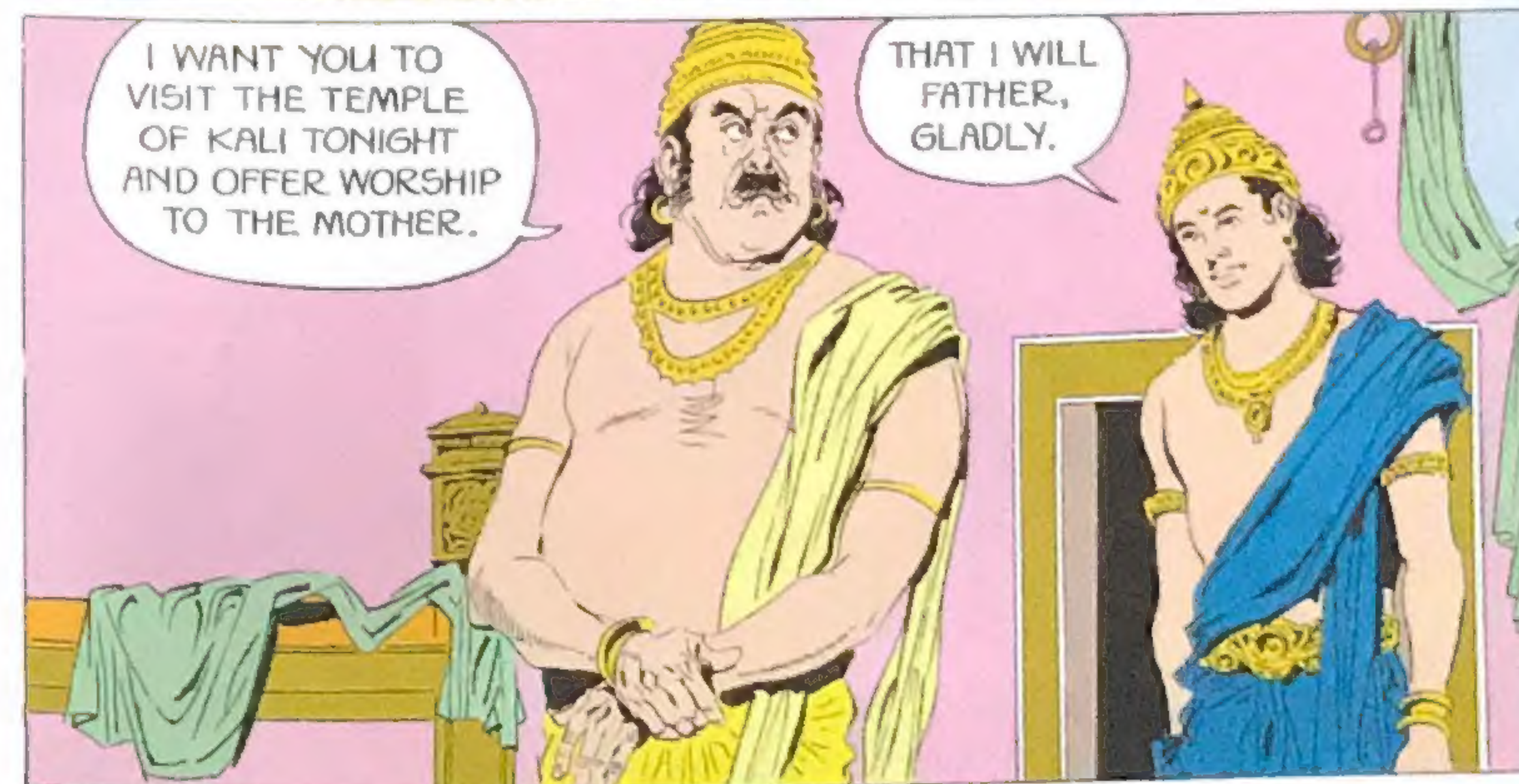
\* THE HINDU GOD OF LOVE.



SO CHANDRAHASA WAS SOON MARRIED TO VISHAYA.



DUSHTABUDDHI RETURNED A FEW DAYS LATER.





MEANWHILE, THE OLD KING OF KUNTALA SENT FOR THE ROYAL PRIEST.

WHEN I LOOKED INTO THE MIRROR, I SAW A HEADLESS REFLECTION OF MY BODY. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, REVERED SIR?

IT SIGNIFIES THAT YOUR END IS DRAWING NEAR. O KING, THINK OF SHRI HARI IN YOUR LAST DAYS ON EARTH.

BUT SIR, MY BELOVED DAUGHTER IS NOT YET MARRIED.

DON'T DESPAIR, O KING. WHY DON'T YOU MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER, TOO, TO CHANDRAHASA, THE NOBLE SON-IN-LAW OF DUSHTABUDDHI?

A GOOD PROPOSAL. SEND FOR HIM AT ONCE, SIR.

MADANA, WHERE IS CHANDRAHASA? THE KING WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM, IMMEDIATELY.

I'LL GO AND TELL HIM, SIR.

CHANDRAHASA!

THE KING WANTS TO SEE YOU.

BUT I AM ON MY WAY TO THE TEMPLE.

LET ME GO TO THE TEMPLE. YOU MUST HURRY TO THE PALACE. TAKE MY HORSE.

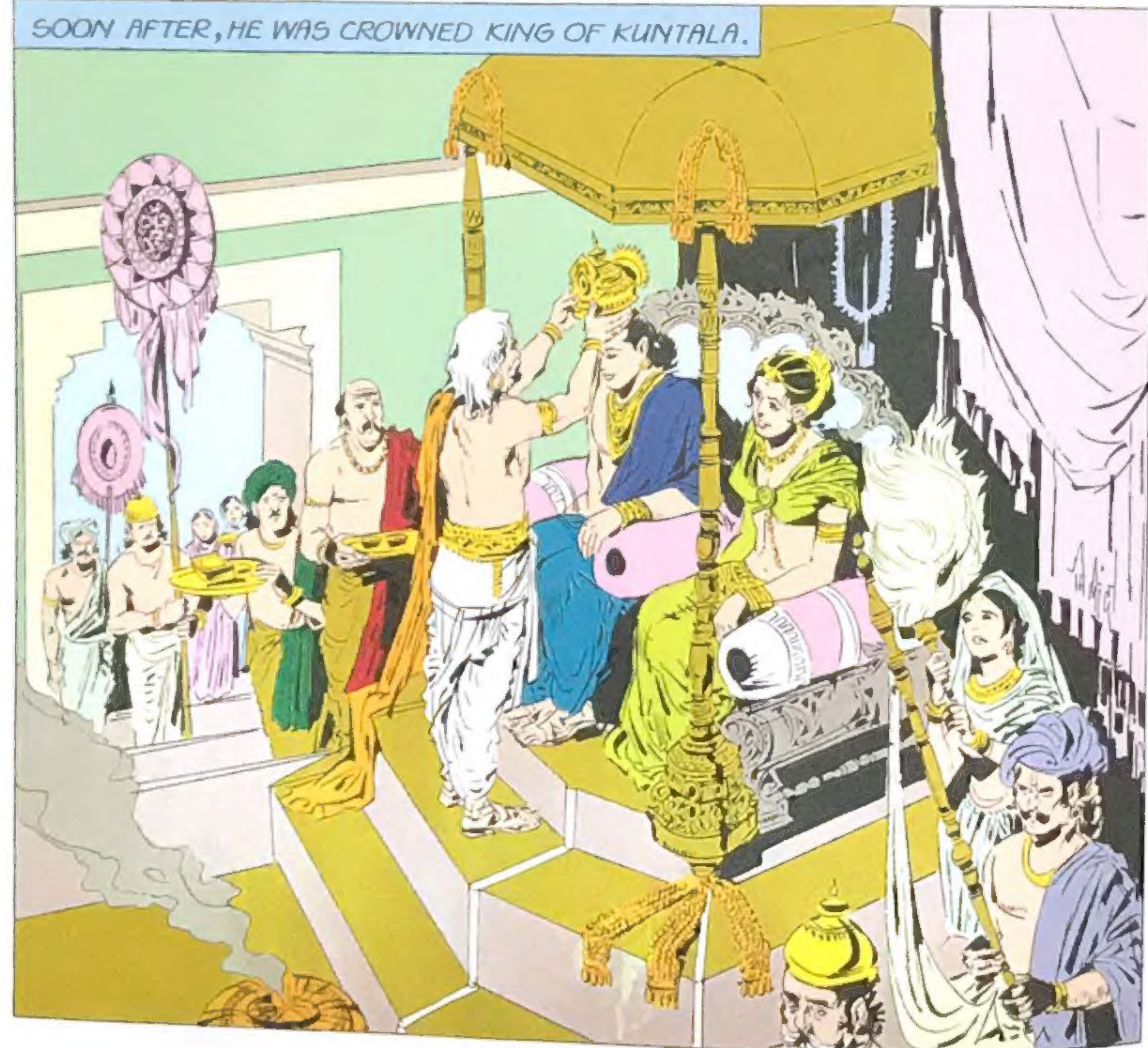
ALL RIGHT, MADANA, IF THAT IS YOUR WISH.



AS SOON AS CHANDRAHASA REACHED THE PALACE, HE WAS MARRIED TO THE PRINCESS.



SOON AFTER, HE WAS CROWNED KING OF KUNTALA.



THEN CHANDRAHASA AND HIS SECOND BRIDE VISITED DUSHTABUDDHI.



THE KING SENT FOR ME. SO MADANA WENT IN MY PLACE, SIR.

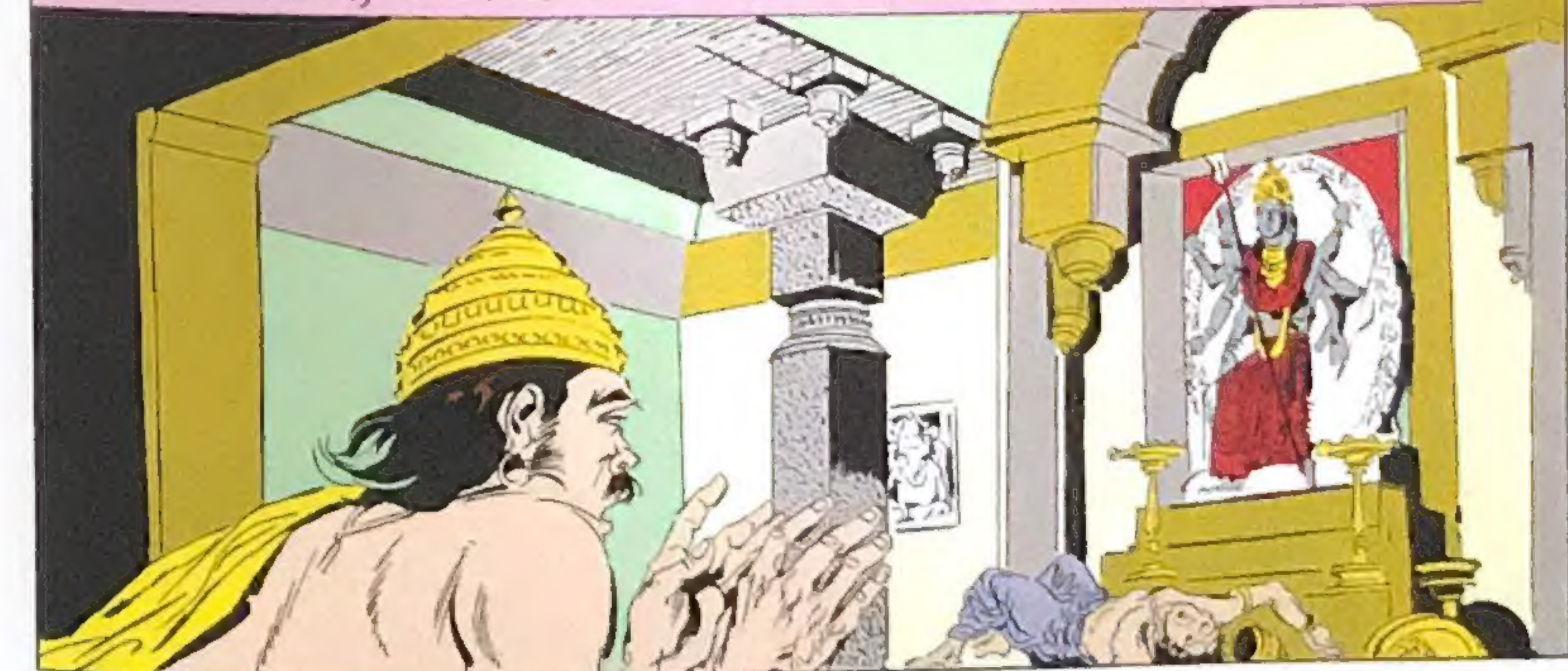
WHAT! MADANA GONE TO THE TEMPLE! OH! GOD! NO!



DUSHTABUDDHI HURRIED TO THE TEMPLE, RUNNING AS FAST AS HE COULD.



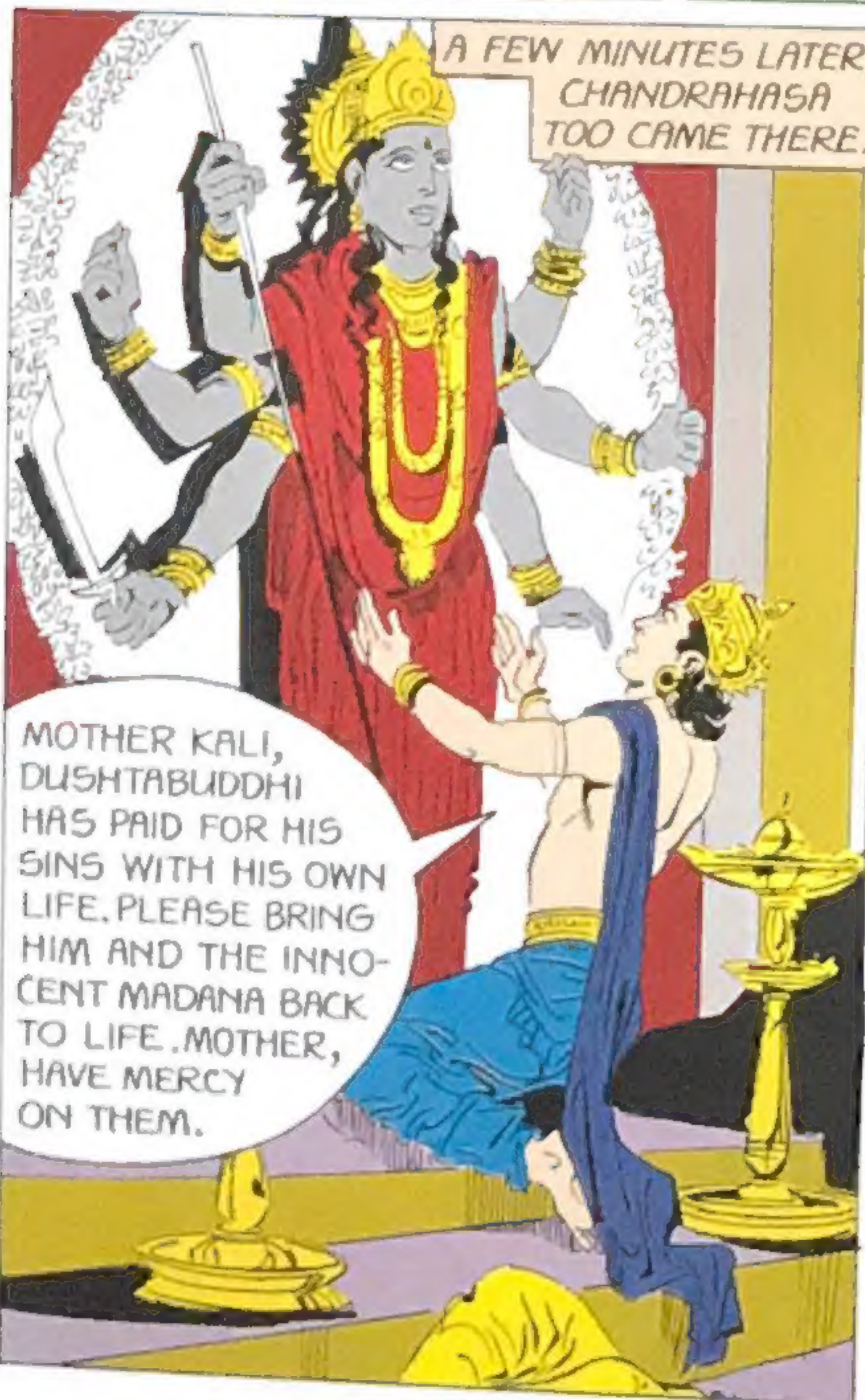
BUT HE WAS TOO LATE. THE KILLERS, WHO WERE ORDERED BY HIM TO KILL THE LONELY YOUNG WORSHIPPER VISITING THE TEMPLE THAT EVENING, HAD KILLED MADANA, WHO HAD GONE THERE IN PLACE OF CHANDRAHASA.







OVERCOME BY GRIEF AND REPENTANCE,  
DUSHTABUDDHI STABBED HIMSELF.



A FEW MINUTES LATER,  
CHANDRAHASA  
TOO CAME THERE.

MOTHER KALI,  
DUSHTABUDDHI  
HAS PAID FOR HIS  
SINS WITH HIS OWN  
LIFE. PLEASE BRING  
HIM AND THE INNO-  
CENT MADANA BACK  
TO LIFE. MOTHER,  
HAVE MERCY  
ON THEM.

WHEN HIS PRAYER  
REMAINED UNHEARD —

THEN ACCEPT MY LIFE,  
MOTHER KALI, AND  
LET THE FATHER  
AND SON LIVE.

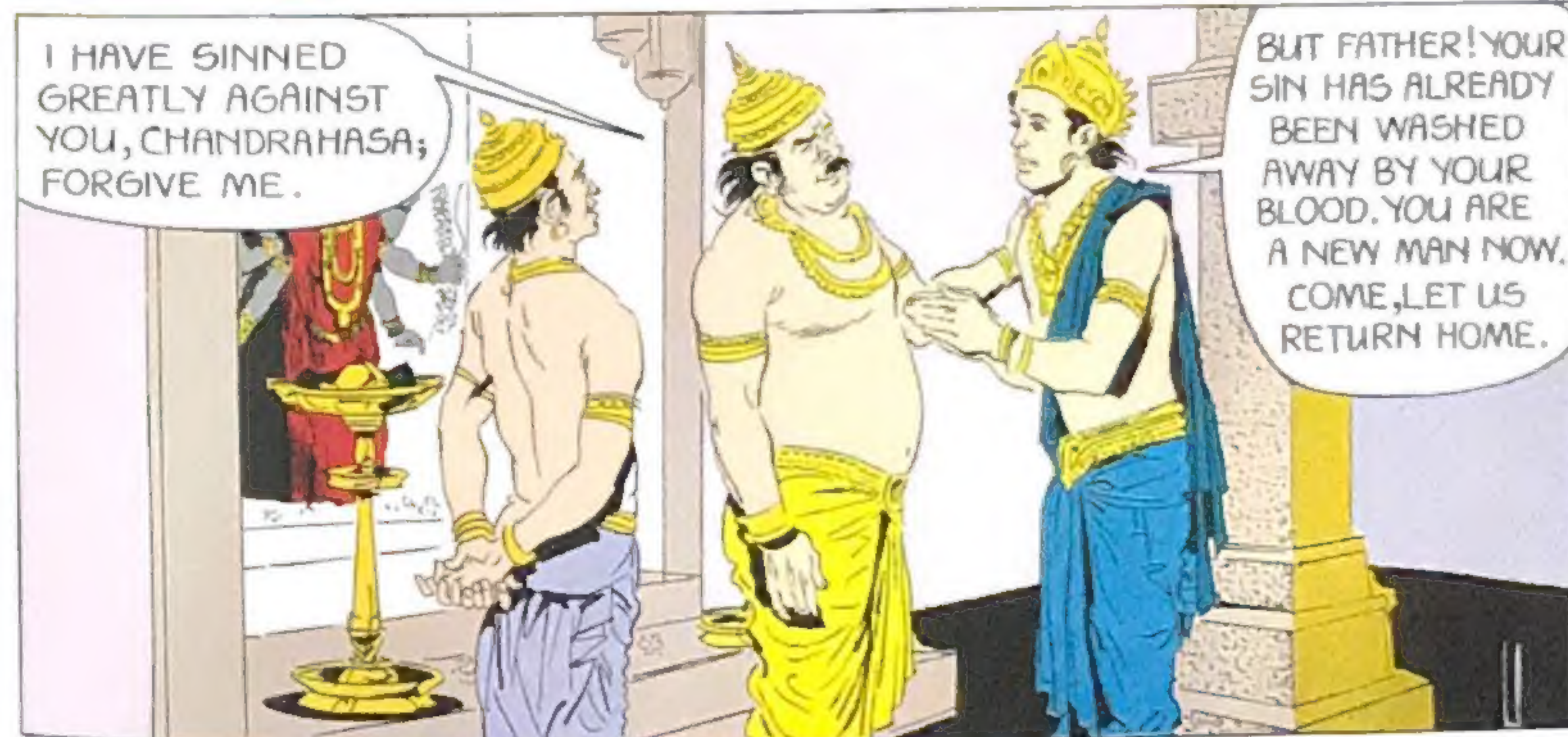


JUST THEN —

WAIT! I WILL NOT  
ALLOW ONE LIKE  
YOU TO DIE. I'LL  
BRING THEM  
BACK TO LIFE.



I HAVE SINNED  
GREATLY AGAINST  
YOU, CHANDRAHASA;  
FORGIVE ME.



BUT FATHER! YOUR  
SIN HAS ALREADY  
BEEN WASHED  
AWAY BY YOUR  
BLOOD. YOU ARE  
A NEW MAN NOW.  
COME, LET US  
RETURN HOME.

CHANDRAHASA RULED OVER KUNTALA AND CHANDANAVATI AND LIVED HAPPILY  
WITH HIS TWO WIVES.

